SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

For Immediate Release Sen. Bob Emerson Sen. Mark Schauer Sen. Gretchen Whitmer March 21, 2006

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SENATE DEMOCRATS WELCOME WHITMER

Emerson: The Senate will benefit greatly from her presence

LANSING—Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) today took her oath of office to become state Senator of the 23rd District. This follows her impressive victory in Tuesday's special election to replace now-mayor Virg Bernero.

"We welcome Gretchen to the Senate with open arms," said Sen. Democratic Leader Bob Emerson, (D-Flint). "She is an able and experienced legislator, and the Senate will benefit greatly from her presence."

Whitmer, 34, is now the youngest member of the Senate, and she has already developed a history of effective, progressive leadership. In the House, she led the fight to ensure funding for schools, city governments, and our social safety net, and she has made job creation a top priority by working to bring together government, higher education, and business resources.

"Gretchen's leadership, policy expertise, and work ethic will serve the citizens of Ingham County and all of Michigan well," said Senate Democratic Floor Leader Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek). "She will strengthen our fight to ensure that the interests of Michigan workers and families are the top priority of the Senate every single day."

In the House, Whitmer served as the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee. Her committee assignments in the Senate will include Agriculture, Forestry & Tourism, Local Urban & State Affairs, Judiciary, and Gaming & Casino Oversight, and Minority Vice Chair of Health Policy.

"I am honored by the trust Ingham County residents have placed in me to represent them in the Senate," said Whitmer. "I've hit the ground, and I am running."